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(54) **UNIFIED CLOUD COMPUTING INFRASTRUCTURE TO MANAGE AND DEPLOY PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTS**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method, system and computer program product for managing and deploying physical and virtual environments across multiple hardware platforms. A single unit, referred to herein as a cloud construction block, contains both the hardware and software components used to build a cloud computing environment. By having such a single unit contain both the hardware and software components needed to build a cloud computing environment, the user no longer needs to purchase and integrate different hardware and software components. Furthermore, the cloud construction block contains modular pieces of hardware, such as compute hardware, memory hardware, storage hardware and network hardware, that are integrated with management software configured to manage both the hardware and the cloud computing environment in a seamlessly integrated package. Since there is a single management system, the management software allows the user to manage the modular pieces of hardware via a single user interface.

18 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets